

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Claim 1 (Currently amended):

A ~~feedstuff additive~~ feed for crustaceans or fishes, ~~characterized in that it is~~  
comprising a feedstuff additive, the feedstuff additive a) being prepared from gram -  
negative bacteria, ~~that it has~~ b) having a molecular weight of  $5000 \pm 2000$  as measured  
by SDS -PAGE method using a protein marker, ~~that it is~~ c) being substantially free of  
high molecular weight lipopolysaccharide, ~~that it contains~~ d) containing a low molecular  
weight lipopolysaccharide as an effective component and ~~that it is~~ e) capable of  
activating immunity or preventing infection in crustaceans or fishes.

Claim 2 (Currently amended):

C<sup>2</sup> A ~~feedstuff additive~~ feed for crustaceans or fishes as in claim 1 further comprising  
~~the low molecular weight lipopolysaccharide of claim 1 and a carrier acceptable for~~  
~~crustaceans and fishes.~~

Claim 3 (Canceled).

Claim 4 (Currently amended):

A method of activating immunity or preventing infection in crustaceans or fishes  
comprising administering an effective amount of the ~~low molecular weight~~  
~~lipopolysaccharide~~ feed of claim 1 to crustaceans or fishes.

Claim 5 (Canceled).

Claim 6 (Currently Amended):

An agent for activating immunity or preventing infection of crustaceans or fishes comprising ~~an admixture of~~ the feed of claim 1, wherein an immunity-activating or infection-preventing amount of the feedstuff additive ~~low molecular weight~~ lipopolysaccharide of claim 1 ~~and a feed is provided.~~

Claims 7-8 (Canceled).

Claim 9 (Currently amended):

A ~~feedstuff additive~~ feed according to claim 1, wherein the gram-negative bacteria are those pertaining to genus Pantoea.

Claim 10 (Currently amended):

A ~~feedstuff additive~~ feed according to claim 9, wherein the gram-negative bacteria are Pantoea agglomerans.

Claims 11-14 (Canceled).

Claim 15 (Currently amended):

A ~~feedstuff~~ according to claim 1, wherein the infection is caused by ~~an infectious microbe~~ a disease selected from the group consisting of: acute viremia of crustaceans, their vibrio diseases, parasitosis or mycosis; iridovirus infectious diseases of fishes, their rhabdovirus diseases, neuroncrosis, infectious hemopoietic organ necrosis, pseudotuberculosis, streptococcal diseases, enterococcus diseases, vibrio diseases,

Application No.: 09/700,713

Page 5

May 5, 2003

cold-water disease, Pseudomonas diseases, gliding-bacteria diseases and Saprolegnia diseases.

Claim 16 (Currently amended):

A ~~feedstuff additive~~ feed according to claim 1, wherein the high molecular weight lipopolysaccharide is one having a molecular weight of at least 8,000.

**NEW CLAIM**

Claim 17 (New):

A feed for crustaceans or fishes comprising a feed, a feed additive and at least one component selected from the group consisting of a carrier, stabilizer, nutrient, antioxidant, antibiotic and antibacterial agent, the feed additive being characterized in that it is prepared from gram - negative bacteria, that it has a molecular weight of 5000  $\pm$  2000 as measured by SDA -PAGE method using a protein marker, that it is substantially free of high molecular weight lipopolysaccharide, that it comprises a low molecular weight lipopolysaccharide and that it is capable of activating immunity or preventing infection in crustaceans or fishes.

---